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Subfamily PHALANGIINÆ.

Genus LIOBUNUM Koch.

5. *L. dorsatum* Say.
6. *L. elegans* Weed.
7. *L. longipes* Weed.
8. *L. maculosum* Wood.
9. *L. nigripalpis* Wood.
10. *L. politus* Weed.
11. *L. similis* Weed (M S.).
12. *L. ventricosum* Wood.
13. *L. verrucosum* Wood.
14. *L. vittatum* Say.
15. *L. (?) exilipes* Wood.
16. *L. (?) calcar* Wood.

Genus FORBESIUM Weed.

17. *F. hyemale* Weed.
18. *F. formosum* Wood.

Genus PHALANGIUM Linn.

19. *P. cinereum* Wood.
20. *P. longipalpis* Weed.

Genus OLIGOLOPHUS Koch.

21. *O. ohioensis* Weed.
22. *O. pictus* Wood.

EDITORIAL.

EDITORS, E. D. COPE AND J. S. KINGSLEY.

WHILE the pursuit of pure science deals with the abstract, since nature has a physical basis the scientific man cannot neglect the practical. Like other men he must live, and he must have a career. In order to live he must have a reputation, or in other words he must, like other men, advertise his wares. Such is the practice of the worker in science, and happily such practice coincides with his direct line of work, which is the development of human knowledge. His pursuit advertises itself to the intelligent, so that the investigator need not go out of his way to become known if his work is good. And his reputation means a position and support for himself and his family.

It is not uncommon, however, to hear very exalted sentiments uttered by the enthusiastic devotee, to the effect that he cares nothing for the ordinary indications by which he may be known. He particularly disclaims the vulgar desire to give names, when it is fully within his right to do so, and he looks down with contempt on the man who thus affixes a trade-mark to the goods which he has himself produced. Now this is nothing but a mild form of hypocrisy, pleasing to him who entertains it and to the groundlings who know nothing of life, but it deceives no others. Let another step in and try to set up his shop in the "preserves" of these gentlemen, or let him try to attach his label to what he may discover therein, and human nature displays itself in vigorous forms. They are not so indifferent as they pretend to be.

We sometimes hear suggestions that the scientific field shall be divided. A shall do this, B that, and so on. Such propositions are most likely to emanate from some person who fears the industry or the ability of some one else, and desires to preempt a claim from which "depredators" shall be excluded. This also is human nature, but it is not the right kind. The defenders of such methods, however, assure us that it is in the true interest of science!

These remarks are *apropos* of a recommendation contained in the address before the Geological Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of 1890, by its chairman, Prof. Jno. C. Branner, who is director of the Geological Survey of Arkansas. He recommends that the State Geological Surveys confine themselves to economical geological work, and leave the solution of all scientific problems to the United States Geological Survey. Perhaps Professor Branner intends to do this in the case of the survey which he directs, but if he does so we should consider him derelict in his duty to the people who have appointed him. We doubt, however, whether he will or can do so. As to other geological surveys, his proposition will be apt to provoke a smile. The scientific geologist, wherever located and however situated, will not probably confine himself to economic questions. Nor will the literature of geology be diminished as Prof. Branner professes to desire. If scientific geology is to be restricted

to the U. S. Geological Survey, and economic geology to the State Surveys, where do the Universities come in? and where private investigators working at their own expense?

It has been said that most men, if they had the opportunity, would be despots, and they would at the present time, as they have often in the past, plead some public good as their excuse. But in science most especially despotism is impossible. The investigator has the "inalienable right" to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" in the direction of scientific researches, and no man is competent to tell him what he shall do and what he shall not do. His *raison d'être* is the quality of the work he does, and if his work is bad, it simply sinks out of sight. What good he does will be credited to him in the court of approval of the world of science, where everything stands on its merits, and local ambitions and political tactics are unknown.—C.

—WHILE there were a goodly number of entomological papers read at the recent Indianapolis meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science and the Entomological Club of the A. A. A. S., there was a notable scarcity of such papers before the Biological Section of the Association. This paucity was a subject of remark not only among entomologists, but workers in other lines as well. It is very desirable that in future years students of insect life furnish more papers of general biological interest, following in this respect the excellent example set by the botanists. While there is just now an urgent demand for the solution of many purely economic problems in entomology, and official workers are wisely devoting much of their time to these, they can scarcely afford to neglect entirely the biological side of their subject. Not only is there great need of the elucidation of insect life-histories, many of which are complex and difficult to determine, but there are hundreds of points where entomology touches the problems of general biology, and is able to aid greatly in their solution. No better illustration of this can be cited than the admirable researches of Professor and Mrs. Peckham upon the senses of wasps and sexual selection and mimicry in the spiders of the family Attidæ. Papers upon the classi-

fication and distribution of insects seem also of late to have become unfashionable at the association meetings, without sufficient reason. In the present craze for purely practical entomology it should be remembered that there is very little entomology that is not in some sense economic, and that if entomologists wish to attract to their ranks a desirable class of amateur students, they must show that in the world of insects there are other problems than those of spraying with the arsenites or fighting the codling moth.—W.

—THE electric execution law of New York State should be repealed pending the development of our knowledge on the subject. The course of an electric current in or on such a bad conductor as the human body is difficult to foresee, and in the case of Kemmler it seems to have disappointed the expectations of the designers of the apparatus. The current did not traverse the spinal cord as was intended, but followed the dorsal muscles, which were, according to the reports, completely roasted. What is then to prevent its taking a superficial direction on the head as well? The frequent statements which are made of men receiving shocks of higher power than that used in the execution of Kemmler confirms the belief that the direction of the current is an uncertain quantity in the problem. So long as this uncertainty remains, so long will electrical execution be a trifling with the subject, which is inexcusable. In the present state of our knowledge of the subject the law is a disgrace to the statute-book of the State of New York. Execution by hanging is not thought to be a painful manner of death, although the guillotine is probably less so.

We expect to have some comment on the subject, in a future number of the *NATURALIST*, by a well-known expert, who was present at the execution of Kemmler.